

WEYMOUTH HISTORICAL COMMISSION
APRIL 10th, 2007 MEETING
Weymouth Town Hall - Kelly Room

PRESENT: Ted Clarke/Chairman, Tom Curtis, Mary Dorey and Richard Pattison

ABSENT: Jodi Purdy-Quinlan and Steve Puleo

ALSO PRESENT: Jody Lehrer/Community Development Coordinator, Office of Planning and Community Development

Chairman Ted Clarke called the April 10th, 2007 meeting of the Weymouth Historical Commission to order at 7:05 PM.

I. Chairman- no comments.

II. Minutes

Mr. Pattison moved to approve the minutes of the March 13th, 2007 minutes as amended.

UNANIMOUSLY VOTED

(Ms. Lehrer will email the amended minutes to the members for the files.)

Copies of the January and September minutes were submitted for signature.

III. Reports:

A. Town Liaison

1. Associate Member Provision

Ms. Lehrer reported that Jim Clarke has spoken to Town Solicitor Lane about the post of Associate Member and at this point he is waiting for his response.

2. Weymouth Landing Historic District

Ms. Lehrer further reported that Jim Clarke has emailed Betsy Friedberg, National Register Director/Massachusetts Historical Commission regarding their application and is waiting to hear back on the disposition.

Chairman T. Clarke replied that he has been waiting to hear from Jim Clarke regarding the appointment.

3. Other

Sea Street Historic District

Ms. Lehrer submitted a copy of the letter to Wendy Frontiero/Preservation Consultant (from Betsy Friedberg) re. the Sea Street Historic District to each of the members. In the letter she noted, in part, that the process is expected to take from 18 months to 2 years.

B. Additional Reports

1. Railroad Signage

Ms. Lehrer told members that she expected to be receiving information shortly on the mural for the Weymouth Landing "T" station. Further, in regard to the signage for the Fore River Power Plan, Jim Clarke stated he was waiting to hear back from member Richard Pattison.

Mr. Pattison reported to the members that he has been working with Jim Clarke on this. At this point Jim is to make the final decision. Plans are for three (3) signs, 3' x 2' - one will be based on the history of the Edison plant and the information included will state that it was an engineering marvel at the time it was constructed. The sign will include 2 to 3 pictures of the original plant. There will also be signs for Lovell's Grove and one re. King Cove (re. Keene boat -

pictures and story). It is expected that Sithe will be funding the costs. At this point he is working on researching additional information.

Ms. Lehrer wanted to confirm the three (3) signboards - Edison plant, Lovell's Grove and King Cove.

2. CPC

Next Ms. Lehrer said it was her understanding that the CPC (Community Preservation Committee) would soon be submitting their recommendation to Mayor Madden.

Proposed projects for funding consideration include Elmwood Cemetery and Reed Cemetery (the proposed work per the consultants has been assessed for the cemeteries at a cost of \$12,000) and Abigail Adams (also for \$12,000).

Mr. Curtis added that the CPC would make the final determination. He further reported that the CPC has not had a meeting in a few weeks, but their budget has been approved. He then referred to their timetable and pointed out that all of their work needs to be finalized by April 1st, 2007 - at which point their recommendation will go first to Mayor Madden, then to the Town Council.

IV. Other Business

A. Unfinished

1. Signs

Ms. Dorey presented two samples for the Board's consideration. She informed members that she has spoken with Michael McCarthy who has a business on Washington Street in Braintree (although he lives in Weymouth). She noted that Mr. McCarthy creates this type of sign for the Town of Scituate. Mr. McCarthy told her he could do the lettering for between \$10 and \$25 a sign, if they come to him cut and painted and 'letter-ready' - but, if he does all the work then the price will increase to \$25-\$35 plus the cost for the sign/board. He told her that one (1) 4 x 8' sheet could make about 25 signs and that particleboard is usable and sea worthy (can take the elements). In describing the second board, she explained that it was made of 'sintra', which is solid core and manmade, only comes in black and white (requires no painting) and is very durable - can last up to 10 years. She said the ones made from mahogany are most expensive.

Regarding the design of the sign - Ms. Dorey told members that Mr. McCarthy recommended they only go with the 'year', and possibly the name of the house, but not to include the Town Seal or Weymouth Historical Commission. He felt it would be too busy with too much information.

Mr. Curtis asked if the sign needed to be glazed and Ms. Dorey replied 'not the sintra'.

Ms. Dorey further informed members that all the historic signs in Scituate are done in Pine, which requires painting. She said that the kids at the high school can cut the signs, but she didn't think they would get the quality they would want if they also did the lettering.

Mr. Pattison felt it important that they keep the cost reasonable. He felt they should send the information to all of the homes on the 'demolition' list, along with some pictures of the proposed signage.

Ms. Lehrer recommended they limit the choices and go with one sign - with the only variation being the name of the house - if one existed and if the property owner chose to include it.

Mr. Pattison felt by including the Town Seal it would validate its authenticity.

Members discussed the permanency of the sign - what would happen if the house was sold - and it was felt that the property owner would leave it with the house.

Ms. Dorey also spoke about another person, Jack Knight, who could carve out/router the signs for about \$50.

It was noted that the cost for the stick-on lettering would be \$15 or \$40 if they were hand-painted.

Members discussed the sign layout and it was agreed that the name (if elected) would go on the top portion, the circa date in the center and the WHC seal at the bottom.

Ms. Lehrer said she would like to bring a sample sign to the Mayor for his approval.

Mr. Pattison suggested the sample sign be for '160 Front Street'.

Ms. Dorey recommended the sample sign be based on the Mayor's house.

Mr. Pattison suggested using DPW to create the signs, but first he said they would need to decide on the color.

Ms. Dorey said she thought that Jack Knight and the DPW already make signs.

Re. the colors - Mr. Curtis suggested they go with Maroon and Gold - Weymouth's (school) colors.

It was agreed that once a sample is created and approved by the Committee, Ms. Lehrer will take a digital shot and send it along with an application to those on the list. That also will be the sign that will be presented to the Mayor for his approval.

a. Abigail Adams House, etc.

Ms. Dorey was concerned that Abigail Adams bio didn't include the words 'wife and mother' to John/John Quincy, but commented that at this time it was a moot point. She felt that welding the sign would work as it is made out of cast aluminum. She offered to check to see if the DPW could do it.

2. Kevitt Award date/time

Chairman T. Clarke told members that he has interviewed Barbara Johnson and would like to set a date to present the Chester Kevitt award.

It was agreed that it would be done at the May 8th meeting, at 6:30 PM.

Chairman T. Clarke said he would be contacting Jim Clarke to invite the Mayor to attend.

It was also agreed that Mr. Pattison would make the announcement re. Ms. Johnson being the recipient of the Chester Kevitt Award at the Weymouth Historical Society Annual Dinner scheduled to be held on April 28th.

B. New

1. Approval of Invoice

Ms. Lehrer noted that the bill for the granite plaque and boulder at Sea & Willow Streets has come in and the amount is \$1,895.

Mr. Pattison moved to approve payment of the invoice in the amount of \$1895 from WHC funds.

UNANIMOUSLY VOTED

2. WHS Newsletter Commentary

Chairman T. Clarke referred to a commentary in the recent Weymouth Historical Society's newsletter, written by Herb Caldwell, President. He stated that the article contained some erroneous information about the WHC and then distributed copies of the article and his proposed response.

Mr. Pattison told members that Ms. Purdy-Quinlan has an appointment to meet with the WHS at their next Executive Board meeting re. their Chairman's comments in the newsletter regarding Bicknell Road.

Mr. Pattison was in support of sending the Chairman's response to Mr. Caldwell, as well as, to the Society's members - adding doing it right away would allow their members to discuss it at their next meeting.

DVD Update

Chairman T. Clarke clarified about the disposition of the monies received from the DVD's on the Holbrook House; i. e., if the DVD is purchased at the Holbrook House the money goes to the WHS, if purchased elsewhere it goes to this Commission. He continued to discuss the erroneous comments made in the newsletter with the members, clarifying the mistakes.

Mr. Pattison commented that the WHS is not happy with the Town overall, in particular in regard to the lack of the Town's presence at the show that starred Hal Holbrook (who grew up in Weymouth). He said there was no participation/attendance by Town Officials, which upset some of the members - although he added, it was sold out.

Other Business - Continued

Mr. Pattison told members that the **Central Square Historical District sign**, 200 Middle Street (Middle/Charles St.) needed to be re-erected. He asked if the DPW could reposition it back properly.

Old Fire Alarm System - Next Mr. Pattison reported that the Fire Dept. is installing a new fire alarm system and disposing of the old ones that date back to the 1800's. He wanted to know if they could obtain one box and one topper for the museum. He noted that presently the old ones are being sold on Ebay.

Chairman T. Clarke said he would send a letter making the request.

Video Update - Mr. Pattison noted that the Chairman has written the script that will accompany the video. Presently WETC has it.

Next meeting 05/08/07 at 6:30 PM.

Adjournment

Mr. Pattison moved to adjourn at 8:09 PM.

UNANIMOUSLY VOTED

Respectfully submitted,

Susan DeChristoforo
Recording Secretary

Ted Clarke, Chairman

Date